

Roundtables

A Message from Casey Family Programs



Barry Salovitz

I can still remember the early conversations back in late 2008, when the idea of Permanency Roundtables was proposed to Commissioner Pat Wilson and Deputy Commissioner Teresa James. So much has happened in Kentucky since that time including, but not limited to, four staff orientations, two rounds of Roundtables comprising 162 cases, a facilitators' workshop and meetings with key stakeholders. Another series of Roundtables is scheduled to commence this coming September, along with more stakeholder outreach.

Casey Family Programs' partnership with you has been predicated on our mutual vision that every child deserves a forever home and lifelong family connections. The Roundtables have been one of the vehicles to make the vision a reality. Along the way, everyone has accepted the challenge to think outside the box, try new approaches or even retry former ones, all the while relentlessly pursuing child permanency. In addition, systemic and practice related barriers have been identified and are being addressed. One might say that Kentucky Roundtables has been "the right strategy, at the right time."

I would like to take this opportunity to express my admiration to two specific participant groups that have been essential to the Roundtables' success: the facilitators and scribes. Since we started the Roundtables in Fall 2009, the scribes have played a vital role in documenting our brainstorming and applying our best thinking into a written, concrete and coherent action plan. In addition, their dual responsibility as permanency team consultants has enriched our Roundtable sessions.

This spring, we began the transition from Casey-led facilitation to regional Roundtable facilitation. As many of you can certainly appreciate, facilitating a Roundtable, with all its requirements and expectations, is a complex task, and even more so when you are doing it for the first time. In addition, like the scribes, the facilitator is also expected to concurrently add their own input as a team member. Nonetheless, everyone who stepped up to the plate as a new Roundtable facilitator should recognize that your efforts constituted a great start, and I have no doubt that the more Roundtables you facilitate, the more comfortable you will be in insuring that the Roundtable process is faithfully rendered and that a strong action plan is developed.

Lastly, it is an honor to represent Casey Family Programs in Kentucky and I can only begin to fully express to all of you my thanks for the generous hospitality you have shown to me and my team. I also have come to admire your professionalism, commitment to the children and families that you serve and your openness to try a new approach to case consultation and team decision-making. The reputation you have earned through the Permanency Roundtable project is now recognized nationwide. Congratulations! Each one of you should be rightfully proud of your participation and accomplishments. I trust that you will maintain the original excitement and commitment to the Roundtables that we first forged together last year and that our mutual vision of permanency for every child will continue to strengthen and endure.

I look forward to seeing many of you again during the fall Roundtables as do several of my Casey colleagues who will be joining us once again. To new Roundtable participants, I look forward to meeting you at one of the September orientation sessions.

Thank you,

Barry Salovitz, Senior Director, Casey Family Programs

Progress Report Kentucky Roundtables - July 2010

Phase I

- Permanency Achieved for 39 children out of 34 of cases
- 108 New connections have been established
- 126 New services have begun

Phase II

- Permanency Achieved for 5 children out of 6 of cases
- 27 New connections have been established
- 86 New services have begun

Success Story

A child given a chance ...

A 16 year old male came into care in 2005 as a status offender. When he was returned to his mother for an extended visit, his mother died. His father was in prison for drugs and was not a factor in his life, thus he was returned to state care and spent the next four years in 23 psychiatric placements.

At the Roundtable meeting, it was discovered that the child was going to be moved to a Wilderness camp psychiatric placement for six months. This camp was far from his father's home and did not seem suited for this particular child.

We also learned during the roundtable, that his father had since been released from prison.

As a result of the Roundtable recommendations, the child was not sent to the Wilderness camp for six months, but to a foster home in Ashland, close to his father.

His father is now attending college to become a drug rehab counselor and wants to be involved in his life. The child did well at this foster home for a while.

He had a good Thanksgiving visit in his

Father's home and a good Christmas visit.

Although, he went AWOL from the foster home and continues to have some difficulty, things are better for him. His father is now involved in the child's treatment and is a strong support for him.

The child also will begin receiving trauma based therapy to address grief issues stemming from his mother's death, which he has never had the ability to deal with.

This is a great success for this child!

Transitional Youth Roundtables

In the fall session of the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables, we will be adding an additional three cases per region. These cases will be reviewed on Friday of the scheduled week. These three cases will target children who are between the ages of 17-19 and remained committed to DCBS. These target children may have one or all of the following variables: Developmentally Disabled with low IQs, serious Mental Health issues or serious medical issues. These variables will be clearly outlined to assist with case identification.

As we have seen in the Roundtables, we have a significant opportunity for improvement in the area of aging out children, especially those with special needs. This process will serve to forge a stronger working relationship among CPS, APS and guardianship in an effort to expand the knowledge base on all sides regarding services that are available to these children and how to access their services.

Staff Spotlight Eastern Mountain Region

The Eastern Mountain Service Region has worked diligently on their Casey Roundtable cases, resulting in great results for their children. They have three children from Phase II who have returned to their parents or a relative and have achieved permanency. In addition, six children from Phase I have achieved permanency. They also have three children in an adoptive home awaiting TPR.

The staff in the Eastern Mountain Service Region should be very proud of their results. Thank you for all the hard work and effort that each of you have put into your Casey Roundtable cases and the many other children and families you are serving. Keep up the great work!

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 3 - Youth Transitional Training
Aug. 30-31 - "Kids Are Worth It" Conference
Sept. 8 - Salt River Trail CEU Event
Sept. 9 - Jefferson CEU Event
Sept. 10 - Northern Bluegrass CEU Event
Sept. 20 - Cumberland CEU Event
Sept. 22 - Two Rivers CEU Event
Sept. 23 - The Lakes CEU Event
Oct. 19 - Southern Bluegrass CEU Event
Oct. 20 - Northeastern CEU Event
Oct. 21 - Eastern Mountain CEU Event